



FOURTH SUNDAY
OF
Advent

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DECEMBER 18, 2022

10:00 SERVICE

Prelude: *Variations on “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”* (A. Guilmant and W. Held)

Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Habecker Family

Hymn of Praise 122: ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Words of Greeting and Peace

Children’s Sermon: ***Good News for Everyone!***

Celebration of Ministry: Christmas Eve Offering

Offering: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (McDonald, Nelson, Schmidt)

Songs of Adoration: ***Come and Worship; Who Would Have Dreamed?***

Time of Prayer

Please feel free sit, stand, or kneel as we bow in humility before our loving heavenly Father.

Anthem: *What Sweeter Music* (John Rutter)

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. ***All: Thanks be to God!***

Hymn 127: ***While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks***

Sermon: **Angelic Good News in Our Ordinairiness**
Pastor Wes Oden

Song: ***Come, All You Unfaithful***

Benediction

Postlude: *In dulci Jubilo* (J.S. Bach)

Organist: Judy Congdon **Acolyte:** Addie Boon **Scripture Reader:** Linda Knapp

Music Ministry Team:

Joanna Bates, vocals; Matt Cox, guitar & vocals; Betsy Webb, keyboard & vocals;
Dan Zambrano, cello; Amanda Cox, piano & vocals; Dan Wartinger, cajón

WELCOME TO THE HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH. We have now arrived at the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the anticipation of Christ's birth is mounting. As Mary and Joseph make final preparations for their child, so we are called to make final preparations, too. In worship today, release your heart and mind to the movement of God's Spirit—to the whisper of His voice, to the miracles of His presence, to the love of His Son.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: We will host two Christmas Eve Services: 4:00 and 6:00. Both services will include the Lighting of the Christ Candle, a Children's Time, Congregational Candle lighting, the reading of the Christmas story and music. The 6:00 service will be streamed.

HWC KIDS:

- No in-person Kids Connect this week. Virtual material will be sent out on Friday morning via email.
- This week, kids hear about how an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him about who Mary's baby was. **BIG IDEA:** Jesus makes everything new. **BIBLE:** Matthew 1:18-25 **MEMORY VERSE:** Luke 2:10
- Practice at home! On Christmas morning, the kids will be invited to sing "Oh What a Glorious Night" from Sidewalk Prophets at the front of the Church with the worship team. They've been practicing in Kids Connect but please use this video to practice at home:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0h-Qjiyc24> .

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING AND COOKIE RECEPTION DECEMBER 18 AT 4:00 P.M. Bring your instruments. Bring a plate of cookies to share (leave them in the church kitchen) before joining voices in celebrating our annual Carol Sing in the Sanctuary.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING is Christmas Day! We will gather for worship at 10:00 a.m. The service will be less than 45 minutes.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: We join together in prayer for God to bless our annual Christmas Eve Offering. The church Global Missions Committee has chosen to partner with Wycliffe Thailand in construction of a new Headquarters Center for mobilizing Bible translation across S.E. Asia. Gifts may be received until the end of December in all the church avenues of giving and/or the offering taken December 24th.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY will not be meeting on December 22 or 29th. We will resume on January 5th.

PERSECUTED CHURCH – Morocco has modernized its laws in recent decades but remains a closed country to indigenous believers. Conversion from Islam is forbidden and its 1% Christian population only worships Christ in secret. We pray for growth, encouragement and witness of local believers and workers from abroad in this beautiful land.

MISSION MOMENT – Steve and Margie Doty have spent most of the last 18 years teaching linguistics in Thailand and consulting in Bible translation across the region. They have the closest acquaintance with the Thai Wycliffe Foundation whose new headquarters we are helping fund this Christmas. We pray for their distance zoom teaching and contacts.

STEWARDSHIP

Budget Needed: \$449,429.12 / **Budget Received:** \$403,030.81

PRAYER CONCERNS: for all who are grieving; for people with health concerns: Jeff LaLonde (Andrea Tanner's father), David Ortlip, Vesta Mullen, Terry Ayers, Scarlett Gildemeister, Kim Pegula, Mim Case, Grace Taylor, Karen Gaerte, Bill Getty, Don Yeddo (Paul Rowley's step-father), Andy Mikolajczyk (Mary Lingenfelter's brother), Sith Sanasith (Souly's brother), Denise Zambrano, Cameron Green, Vangie Grant, Lenore Paige, Gary Heil (Janet Stegen's brother), Dan and Sarah Gurley, Chelsea Ellis, Keith Rugg (Kathy Moore's father), Mark Mayhle (Doug's brother), Jeshu, Kurtis and Eliyah Perry, Reuben Samuels, Emily Crikelair; for all dealing with tragedies and disasters including the recent storms; for refugees throughout the world; for protection, wisdom and peace in Ukraine; for a Chinese pastor who has been detained by the police since last December; for Faith Baptist Church of Yorks Corners.

HOUGHTON WESLEYAN CHURCH

9712 ROUTE 19, HOUGHTON NY (585) 567-2264

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